

and poured it into making his community a better place. Mr. Sagcal currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors, Farmers Branch Chamber of Commerce; Member of the Board of Directors, Coppell Chamber of Commerce; Ambassador- Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce; Board of Directors—CFBISD Educational Foundation; Vice-President Historic Downtown Carrollton Association; and is active with the St. Mary Immaculate Church.

Mr. Sagcal's career is marked with heroism and is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Navy and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, due to a transportation issue, I was unable to cast a vote on February 2, 2022. Had I been present, I would have voted against Roll Call No. 17, H. Res. 900.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday I attended the funeral of former Congressman Clarence J. "Bud" Brown, Jr., in Ohio. As a result, I was absent from the House floor during that day's two roll call votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted no on Roll Call No. 16, ordering the previous question on H. Res. 900, and no on Roll Call No. 17, agreeing to H. Res. 900.

RECOGNIZING DIEGO JOSÉ BAQUERO-MORALES

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Diego José Baquero-Morales for his great efforts in achieving the Eagle Scout rank, the most prestigious award in the Boy Scouts of America.

Through his trail to Eagle, Diego José has demonstrated he abides by the Scout Oath and Law and exemplifies the finest qualities of leadership and citizenship the Boy Scouts of America strives to teach. As a member of Troop 134 Diego enjoys visiting El Yunque, Camp Guajataka, fishing and kayaking among other outdoor activities. Diego's Troop distinguishes itself for serving youth with special needs, and its influence has empowered Diego to become an exemplary young man.

Diego's community service project consisted in restructuring several rooms in the Mercedes Morales school to meet the necessities of special needs students like him. The remodeling enabled the students to have new and im-

proved areas to study and receive their therapy sessions. Diego's great achievement attests to his remarkable commitment, leadership skills, and faithfulness to our country.

I'm honored to celebrate Diego's great accomplishment, recognizing the outstanding efforts of his work.

SCOTT ROPIECKI

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, this month, I had the pleasure of presenting Jeffrey "Scott" Ropiecki with his Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Scott began as a Tiger Scout when he was just six years old and has been a lifelong scout ever since. He graduated from Atlantic Cape Community College with an associate degree in applied science. He also earned his Federal Aviation Remote Pilot Certificate with a Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Rating. Scott currently attends Rutgers University where he is majoring in Bio-Chemistry and competed as the only Freshman on the Ranger Challenge Team. For his Eagle Scout project, he revived the Chestnut Neck Road Conservation Trail. Scott cleared the vegetation and trash from the trail and added markers at critical points along the route. He also made a trailhead to signify the trail's starting point using split railings. Scott should be proud of his accomplishments and it was my honor to have had the opportunity to recognize him for his service to the South Jersey community. God Bless Scott and God Bless America.

EDWARD L. PETERS

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYN. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the Texas—24, the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Edward L. Peters, Petty Officer 1st Class, United States Navy, of Grapevine, Texas for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued dedication to his community.

Mr. Peters enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1972, serving in waters in the Middle East, the Northern Atlantic, the Caribbean, and two deployments to Guantanamo Bay. His decorations include the National Defense Service Medal, the Navy Good Conduct Medal, and the Navy Expeditionary Medal.

After leaving the Navy, Mr. Peters brought the same love he had for his country and poured it into making his community a better place. He has served on several boards, commissions, and committees. Among these are the Board of Directors, Tulip Track Council I of the Girl Scouts of the USA, the Board of Directors for the Grapevine Shield Foundation which fundraises for fallen and injured first responders, an active volunteer for the Grapevine Police Department with over 5,500 hours volunteered since 2010, and an active volun-

teer for the Lions Club, Kiwanis, the Grapevine Chamber of Commerce, the Grapevine Masonic Lodge, and the Grapevine Elks Lodge.

Mr. Peters' service is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Navy and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

IN HONOR OF COACH KIRBY PAUL SMART

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor, commend, and extend personal congratulations to the University of Georgia's (UGA) Football Head Coach, Coach Kirby P. Smart. Coach Smart recently led the UGA Bulldogs to their 2022 College Football Playoffs National Championship win on Monday, January 11, 2022.

Kirby was born on December 23, 1975, to the union of Sonny and Sharon Smart. He was educated in the Decatur County School System, and he began his playing career at Bainbridge High School under the tutelage of his father. During his high school career, he was a three-year letterman in football, basketball, and baseball and a first-team Class AAAA All-State as a senior. Upon his graduation from Bainbridge High, he enrolled at and played for the University of Georgia, where he was a four-year letterman at defensive back and a first-team All-SEC (Southeastern Conference) selection as a senior. He finished his college football career as a four-time member of SEC Academic Honor Roll, with 13 interceptions, ranking fourth-all time at UGA, and led the Bulldogs with six interceptions in 1997 and five in 1998 before graduating in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in Finance. Kirby later obtained his master's degree in Physical Education from Florida State University in 2003.

Kirby began his impressive coaching career in 1999 as the Administrative Assistant Coach for UGA. Since then, he has served as the Assistant Coach for Defensive Backs (2000) and Defense Coordinator (2001) at Valdosta State University, a Graduate Assistant (2002 through 2003) at Florida State University, the Assistant Coach for Defensive Backs (2004) at Louisiana State University, the Assistant Coach for Running Backs (2005) at UGA, and the Assistant Coach for Safeties (2006) with the Miami Dolphins. He also served as the Assistant Coach for Defensive Backs (2007), Defensive Coordinator for Inside Linebackers (2008 through 2013 and 2015), and Defensive Coordinator for Inside Linebackers (2014) at the University of Alabama, before coming back to UGA to serve as the Football Head Coach (2016). Since returning to UGA, Kirby and the Bulldogs have amassed championship titles at several levels including four in the SEC Eastern Division, one in the SEC, and one at the national level.

Coach Smart has received countless awards and commendations for his achievements and accomplishments as a coach including the Broyles Award (2009), American Football Coaches Association Assistant Coach of the Year (2012), SEC Coach of the Year